MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 JANUARY 1983

Lebanon

Khaldah Talks -- At the seventh session of Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations, the first step was taken toward achieving an agreement between Israel and Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. After talks on terminating the state of war and on security arrangements, the delegation spokesmen announced that the negotiations had progressed following a decision establishing a subcommittee to formulate a joint proposal for ending the state of war, the radio noted. The subcommittee held its first meeting at Khaldah and additional subcommittees will be established as the negotiations progress, the Israeli spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by the radio. According to IDF Radio, agreement was reached on a framework for a declaration about ending the state of war which will "apparently" not mention the 1949 cease-fire agreements. On the other hand, Voice of Lebanon radio said the Lebanese negotiators were maintaining their stand that the armistice agreement is still in effect and reported that no agreement was reached on this matter.

The Voice of Lebanon also reported that a committee began discussing the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon. Israeli media did not mention any such committee. Jerusalem radio said the Israelis rejected Lebanese demands that the withdrawal of foreign forces be given preference, asserting that subcommittees should be established only after recommendations are agreed for discussion. While the plenum for negotiations will continue to convene biweekly in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona, the subcommittees will operate separately, the radio noted.

Security Situation -- Clashes continued in the Ash-Shuf mountain area despite the conclusion of a new Druze-Christian cease-fire agreement, according to reports by the Voice of Lebanon and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Meanwhile, sources cited by the Beirut daily AS-SAFIR accused the Israelis of trying to stifle news that a mass grave containing the bodies of 15 youths who were detained at Al-Ansar detention camp was found nearby.

Syria

Two consignments of Soviet SAM-5's arrived in Syria last week, Jerusalem radio reported citing U.S. intelligence sources. The missile sites, near Damascus and Homs, will become operational "within 6 weeks," the report added.

Iraq-Iran War

Iranian fighter planes and antiaircraft units shot down three Iraqi aircraft in the southern border region on 16 January, an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed. Meanwhile, an Iraqi military spokesman refuted the Iranian claim, according to INA. An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio said Iraqi fighter planes attacked oil installations on Khark Island and gas production and separation plants north of Ahvaz scoring direct hits.

PLO Affairs

'Arafat on Camp David, Egypt -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat affirmed to the Cairo magazine AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI that the PLO is not asking Egypt to foresake the Camp David accords, Radio Monte Carlo reported. 'Arafat added that the PLO hopes Egypt will not ask it to recognize Israel "unilaterally," the radio noted. The radio pointed out that in his statement 'Arafat appealed to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak "to take a step" toward the Palestinians.

Salah Khalaf on Syria -- Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said he still favors a "strategic alliance" with Syria but that Syria must decide to fight "even if Damascus is occupied," according to an interview published by the Saudi paper AL-MADINAH. "We need Syria and Syria needs us," Khalaf stressed.

Palestinian Delegation -- During recent talks in Amman, Jordanian and Palestinian sides agreed to name the members of the Palestinian delegation that would participate with the Jordanian delegation in any peace talks, negotiations, or activity, QNA reported citing the Qatari paper AR-RAYAH.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz arrived back in Baghdad on 17 January following his visit to Damascus, INA reported. Meanwhile, King Husayn returned to Jordan following visits to Iraq and Saudi Arabia, according to Amman radio. Commenting on the king's visits, Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran stated that the talks in the two fraternal countries were important and viewpoints were identical on all issues discussed, Amman television noted. Riyadh radio viewed the outcome of King Husayn's talks in Saudi Arabia as strengthening bilateral relations and consolidating all matter of concern to the Arab world.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi in Bulgaria -- Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Bulgaria on an official visit at the invitation of the chairman of the State Council and secretary general of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, Todor Zhivkov, JANA reported. According to Sofia radio, a meeting between the Libyan and Bulgarian leaders took place in a cordial, friendly atmosphere and centered on bilateral and international issues.

Oil Secretariat Statement -- Libya is adhering to OPEC basic prices and using all its resources to maintain OPEC unity, JANA reported citing a Libyan Oil Secretariat statement on deteriorating oil prices in the world market.

Egypt

Two U.S. soldiers of the Multinational Force and Observers in Sharm ash-Shaykh were severely injured when their vehicle drove over a mine, IDF Radio reported. According to Jerusalem radio, the soldiers were injured when they mistakenly entered a minefield.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND TERMED 'INTERFERENCE'

LD171850 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] A spokesman for the DRA Foreign Affairs Ministry, in reply to a question by a BAKHTAR correspondent in connection with the formation of a U.S. central command for the Southwest Asia region, said:

The formation of a U.S. central command for Southwest Asia, set up on 1 January this year, is another aggressive adventurous step taken by U.S. criminal imperialism, which, relying on its military forces, is increasing interference in the domestic affairs of other countries, speeding up the arms race, and implementing its political, military, neocolonialist, and plundering plans.

The sphere of activity of this command, which is thousands of kilometers from the United States, includes 19 sovereign and independent countries, including the DRA, and also the Indian Ocean [words indistinct] the Gulf region and the Red Sea.

This command, which has been formed to replace the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force, will comprise more than 200,000 men in land, air, and sea strike forces. These forces will make use of U.S. military bases in Egypt, (?Oman), Kenya, and (?Sudan). Diego Garcia also will be utilized extensively and, according to some information, a number of military divisions of the command [words indistinct] and in the future, even in the vicinity of Afghanistan.

The fundamental tasks of this command will consist of planning military operations, carrying out military exercises, utilizing forces under its command to interfere in the domestic affairs of the countries in the region, and (?destabilizing) regimes (?and replacing them) with a puppet regime in this region which is of vital strategic importance to imperialist aggressive designs. In this way, the [words indistinct] of the world-devouring U.S. imperialism, as boss of international imperialism and according to its war-mongering, aggressive, and plundering nature, has declared an extensive area of the globe as a region of its vital interests; it has decided to strengthen its military (?muscle) and impose it (?on the life of the people of the region).

U.S. imperialism, which has undertaken the task of international gendarme to protect the interests of the (?military complex) and [word indistinct] of the capitalist world [words indistinct]. In addition, the United States [passage indistinct] and of the countries in the region to continue, and do not let the countries of the region make use of their natural resources to develop their national economies and [word indistinct].

The Washington bosses, headed by Reagan, these slaves of the capitalist world, are trying, by utilizing the forces under their command, to threaten the people of the region [words indistinct] and sovereign states, thus imposing their will upon them.

[Words indistinct] intends to trample under foot the just rights of the people and the countries of the region for freedom, national independence, national sovereignty, self-determination and social progress. [Passage indistinct] its international essence toward increasing the arms race, creating international conflicts, avoiding nuclear and strategic arms disarmament, disrupting the process of detente, and forming regions of (?tension) throughout the world to the detriment of peace, peaceful coexistence, and mutually beneficial cooperation among states.

The chiefs of U.S. imperialism, by creating this new command, plan to endanger peace and stability, to fan tension, to create new crises, and to prevent the peaceful solution of differences in the region.

The formation of a central command for the Southwest Asia region, which brazenly includes the DRA in its operational area, is another open and clear example of the U.S. imperialist interference in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan. It is also a continuation of the undeclared war against our independent and revolutionary country and is counted as a new threat to the independence and teritorial integrity of the countries in the region.

The people and Government of the DRA, with the victory of the April Revolution, have opened their path toward social progress and are creating a new society under the leadership of the PDPA. With iron will and unity, they are heroically struggling against shameless imperialist interference, headed by U.S. imperialism, in our internal affairs, and its undeclared war against our country and people. The people and Government of Afghanistan vigorously condemn this step of U.S. imperialism as an aggressive and plundering action; they are confident that the free people of the region and the world will express their catagoric opposition against this new colonialist (?step) of U.S. imperialism, and will not let the dark imperialism of the United States succeed in its sinister aims in the region and in the world.

TWO GROUPS CLAIM KIDNAPPING OF SOVIET ADVISERS

BK180224 Hong Kong AFP in English 0022 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 17 (AFP) -- Two separate Afghan resistance groups today claimed responsibility for kidnapping a party of about 15 Soviet advisers two weeks ago.

According to reports from the rebel forces, largely backed up by eyewitness accounts, the Soviets were attacked on either January 3 or 5 as they travelled by minibus through the centre of Mazar-e Sharif in the north of Afghanistan.

According to reports one or two of them died "of heart attacks" as they were led through a mountainous region south of the village held by the resistance. One eyewitness reported that one Soviet was killed as he tried to escape. Both groups claiming the kidnap say that the remaining advisers, two of them women, are still alive.

News of the kidnapping was first broken by Western diplomatic sources on January 12.

Leader of one group, Harakat-e Enqelabe Islami, Rafiullah al-Muazin, told AFP today that he planned to exchange his hostages for resistance fighters jailed in Kabul. A spokesman here for the second group, Jami'at-e Eslami, said no decision had been taken on the fate of the captives.

Meanwhile according to rebel sources Soviet troops have launched a massive search of the region and have reportedly arrested 40 traders, three of whom have been sent to the Harakat resistance group to plead the liberation of the Soviet hostages against the threat of execution of the remaining 37 traders.

KESHTMAND RECEIVES CSSR DEPUTY MINISTER 15 JAN

LD151836 Prague CTK in English 1635 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Kabul (CETEKA correspondent) [no date as received] -- Politburo member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and Afghan Premier 'Ali Keshtmand received here Saturday Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Jaroslav Jakubec who is heading a Czechoslovak Government delegation on its visit to Afghanistan.

He highly appreciated the aid provided by Czechoslovakia to Afghanistan in the development of its economy, and pointed out that Czechoslovakia belongs to Afghanistan's most important trade partners.

Jaroslav Jakubec and Afghan deputy foreign trade minister 'Abdol Salam signed here Saturday a protocol on goods exchange between Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan for 1983, and an amendment to the 1980 agreement on economic cooperation between the two countries.

The protocol provides for a more than 38 percent increase of goods exchange between the two states. Czechoslovakia will export to Afghanistan engineering products and consumer goods and will ensure deliveries for the construction of cement works, for coal mines and a water power plant. It will import from Afghanistan mainly agricultural produce, cotton and other raw materials.

Economic Protocol Signed

LD160626 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Kabul, Jan 15, BAKHTAR -- A protocol on exchange of commercial goods between the DRA and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic was concluded here today.

Under this protocol the volumes of export and import between the two countries go up by 20 per cent as compared with the protocol which was concluded in the year 1982.

The main export items from Afghanistan to Czechoslovakia would include cotton, wool, raisins, dried fruits, nuts, carpets, handicrafts and others. The import items from Czechoslovakia to the DRA would consist of motor vehicles, household items, tyres, tubes and other items.

Similarly another complementary agreement totalling 30 million dollars related to the economic cooperation agreement of million dollars dated March 21, 1980 was signed between the DRA and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. [sentence as received] This loan which is provided on easy terms is meant for financing the development projects in the DRA.

Considering this increase, the total amount of aid under the 1980 agreement comes to 120 million dollars.

NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL LAUDS SOVIET ECONOMIC AID

LD170634 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 16, BAKHTAR -- HEWAD, the organ of the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers of the DRA, in its issue of Saturday January 15, has devoted its editorial on the vital value of Soviet cooperations.

The editorial writes that about 170 projects either have become completed or they are in progress under the technical and economic asistance of the Soviet Union. [figure indistinct] per cent of the industrial products of the DRA comes from the projects assisted by the Soviet Union. Darunta and Naghlo power stations in [word indistinct] Salang transportation highway, the factory of chemical fertilizer, the construction of a friendship bridge on Amu River, can be viewed as a few examples of such cooperations which have played a vital role in the overall socio-economic development of Afghanistan.

GANDHI WELCOMES NEW CHIEF MINISTERS' COOPERATION

BK161029 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] The prime minister has welcomed the references made by the Karnataka and the Andhra Pradesh chief ministers to the need for center-state cooperation. In letters to Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N.T. Rama Rao and Chief Minister of Karnataka Ramakrishna Hegde, Mrs Gandhi said that the programs of parties may differ but we should all work together for the unity and the strength of the country and the good of the people. Mrs Gandhi pointed out that as she had stated earlier, all states are equally near to the center. She has conveyed her good wishes to the two chief ministers and their colleagues.

It is understood that in acknowledging the letter of the prime minister, Rama Rao thanked Mrs Gandhi for her good wishes and welcomed her reference to the equality of the states in the eyes of the center.

In an interview with a news magazine, Rama Rao said his government will be cooperative with the center. He also offered full support to it in all its national endeavors.

TRIPURA ASSASSINATIONS, ASSAM VIOLENCE REPORTED

BK180944 Hong Kong AFP in English 0910 GMT 18 Jan 83

[By Joel Henri]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Jan. 18 (AFP) -- Assassinations in Tripura and violence in Assam in the past 48 hours highlight the difficult situation facing Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's government in the remote but important northeastern region.

Indian press agencies reported today that four people were assassinated in Tripura by militants from one of the rival liberation fronts demanding independence for their state. Two of the victims were officials of the Indian independent Marxist Communist Party (CPI-M).

Three organisations, the Tripura People's Liberation Organisation (TPLO), the Tripura National Volunteers (TNV) and the Tripura Upajati Juba Samizti-Tribal Youth Association (TUJS) are conducting an intermittent armed independence struggle against the Tripura government, regardless of whether or not it is Marxist.

The magazine INDIA TODAY called the situation "war without end."

LEGISLATOR, PARTY MEMBER RELEASED IN HYDERABAD

BK151024 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] The situation in the curfew-bound old city area of Hyderabad is fast returning to normal.

Amanullah Khan, member of the legislative assembly, and A. Narendra of the Bharatiya Janata Party, who were arrested under the National Security Act, were released yesterday.

The city police commissioner told the All India Radio Hyderabad correspondent that there was no untoward incident during the 12-hour curfew relaxation period. The day curfew was lifted yesterday and has again been relaxed from 0600 this morning. However, night curfew is continuing as a precautionary measure.

AMRITSAR JAIL SUPERINTENDENT'S HOME BOMBED

BK141558 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] A countrymade bomb, which blasted at the residence of the deputy superintendent of the Amritsar central jail at Amritsar last night, shattered the window panes. No one was reported injured in the incident. The jail superintendent was not at home at the time of the explosion.

KARNATAKA PARTY LEADER: JANATA MERGER NOT FINAL

BK161305 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] S. Bangarappa, former leader of the Karnataka Kranti Ranga,has said the merger of the party with the Janata Party is not final. He said the Karnataka Kranti Ranga continues to maintainits separate identity. Bangarappa was speaking to newsmen in Cochin today.

UPGRADING OF INFANTRY EQUIPMENT DESCRIBED

BK170417 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Several steps have been taken to modernize the various wings of the Indian Army to bring it on a par with armies in other countries. According to official sources, the infantry is now being provided with improved versions of the infantry combat vehicles fitted with antitank missiles and machineguns. Although there are plans to produce these vehicles indigenously, some of them are being acquired from abroad initially. The armored fleet is also being modernized to increased its fire power.

PAPER REPORTS ON FRENCH MISSILE TESTS ON JETS

BK161606 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 9 -- India has taken the lead by becoming the first country in the world to integrate a sophisticated air-to-air missile on the over-wing pylon of a fighter aircraft, reports United News of India.

Indian Air Force [IAF] Jaguars have successfully fired live Matra R-550 Magic missiles installed on their over-wings. The trials have been conducted jointly by the IAF, the aircraft systems testing establishment in Bangalore and Hindustan Aeronautics. The French-supplied Matra Magic missiles have now been cleared for use by the IAF.

Official sources said that the responsibility for integrating the Magic missiles was left to India by its French manufactures and the British Aerospace which had supplied the Jaguars. The tests were conducted after a joint agreement among India, France and Britain.

Sources said that the installation of the missiles on the over-wings of a fighter aircraft had a tremendous application. With this the Jaguars had become the first aircraft in the world to have the over-wing missiles in an operational mode.

ZIA RECEIVES FOREIGN DIGNITARIES 15, 16 JANUARY

Saudi Defense Minister

BK160654 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Baluchistan this morning and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest. Baluchistan Governor Lieutenant General Rahimuddin Khan and Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan also were present. The president returned to Rawalpindi this evening.

Mauritius, Comoros Ministers

BK160751 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] The Comoros minister for foreign affairs, cooperation, and trade, Sai[illegible]fe, and the Mauritius minister for commerce, who arrived in Islamabad at the h[illegible] countries' rice purchase mission, called separately on President General M[illegible] Haq in Rawalpindi this evening. They exchanged views on bilateral relations possibilities of increasing cooperation in the field of trade and commerce between thei countries and Pakistan. The Comoros minister conveyed greetings from the president of Comoros to the Pakistan president. He expressed gratitude on behalf of the poeple and the Government of Comoros for the donation of 1,000 tons of rice by Pakistan for the cyclone affected people of Comoros. Federal Minister for Finance and Commerce Ghulam Ishaq Khan was present during both the meetings.

Qatar Foreign Minister

BK161624 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] A five-member Qatar delegation led by its Foreign Minister Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani called on President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this afternoon and discussed bilateral relations and matters of mutual concern. Shaykh Al Thani donated 5 million rupees for a power project or health facilities in a less developed rural area. The area will be selected by the president. Later, the Qatar foreign minister left for Karachi on his way back home. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Kahn saw him off at the airport.

MURTEZA BHUTTO: PPP YOUTHS LEAN TOWARD USSR, DRA

GF141050 Karachi NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 13 Jan 83 p 1

[From the "International" edition]

[Text] London, 12 Jan -- Mir Murteza Bhutto, son of the former Pakistani prime minister, said the younger members of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] are inclined toward the Soviet Union and the DRA. He said this in an interview with the Indian weekly INDIA TODAY, which was published by the PP organ MASAWAT in London. In his interview, Murteza Bhutto said he has adopted this stand because these countries are being governed on the basis of principles, rather than adventurism. He added: This is also why we sympathize with Mrs Gandhi becau[illegible]e she champions the cause of the rights of the Pakistani people. He said he had no hand in the hijacking of the PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] plane. However, it was carried out by members of the party on their own initiative. Nevertheless, he said, some benefit did accrue to our party as 52 of our members who were languishing in prison were freed. Murteza Bhutto also claimed that his organization has thousands of armed members in Pakistan and that they will take action against their targets at the appropriate time.

KHOMEYNI APPOINTS COUNCIL OF GUARDIANS MEMBER

LD171924 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam Rabbani-Amlashi as a member of the theocrats of the Council of Guardians.

LEADERS MEET WITH LIBYAN OIL MINISTER 18 JAN

President Khamene'i

LD181210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Our correspondent reports that Libyan Petroleum Minister Kamil Hasan al-Maqhur, who is in Tehran heading an economic delegation, this morning met with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and conveyed a verbal message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

At this meeting, also attended by political under secretary of the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the Libyan ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Khamene'i referred to the increasing influence of America in the region and the subservience of the reactionary governments of the region to the United States. He said: Progressive countries should take the necessary steps to form a united anti-American and anti-Zionist front. Strengthening the steadfastness front could be a major st p in this direction. The progressive countries should play an essential role in preventing America's penetration in the region and should resist propaganda and political pressures.

Pointing to the international oil situation, the president said: The main issue presenting itself to the world of Islam and to the Arabs now is the right the reactionary governments assume in putting this vast capital at the disposal of American interests. They would like to use their oil income as a means of fighting revolutionary and Islamic ideology in the region. This is an issue that should be firmly confronted.

Prime Minister Musavi

LD181148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Libyan Petroleum Minister Kamil Hasan al-Maqhur today met with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. In the course of the meeting, also attended by the Libyan ambassador in Tehran and the Petroleum Ministry under secretary in charge of international affairs, the Libyan petroleum minister condemned the colonial policy pursued by other countries in saturating world oil markets in order to lower oil prices and thus thwart the just marketing of this vital substance. He also alluded to the importance of solidarity by OPEC members.

Emphasizing the need to maintain oil prices by OPEC members, the prime minister referred to attempts being made by Saudi Arabia to safeguard the interests of Western countries which seek to plunder the oil resources of the Islamic countries and the Third World. He added: The common stand taken by the progressive countries, particularly the one adopted by Iran and Libya, can be effective in this organization and can defeat Saudi Arabia's moves. The prime minister then said: We are not pessimistic about the future of oil in the current highly volatile market. OPEC members, especially its progressive members, through a prearranged agreement, can foil the plots hatched by oil cartels and Western countries to take over the pricing system from the oil-producing countries.

Concluding his remarks, the prime minister noted the determining role played by Iran and Libya within OPEC to protect the interests of the deprived nations and the need to continue similar meetings between the officials of both countries. He said: Considering the impossibility of replacing oil with another energy-producing substance in today's world, the fate of the Islamic countries and the Third World is inseparable from this vital substance. Consequently, the stands taken by the oil-producing countries are crucial in the present sensitive conditions.

HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI SCORES FRENCH GULF POLICY

LD172354 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Captain Afzali, commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, accompanied by the director and officials of the political-ideological bureaus of the Navy, Navy commanders, and brothers from the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps stationed in the joint Nuh naval base, today met with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

The director of the political-ideological bureau of the Navy gave a speech in which he outlined the philosophy behind the formation of the Nuh base.

In a brief speech, Captain Afzali referred to the sincere cooperation between officials of the Islamic Revolutionary Corps and the Navy and reported on the activities of the Navy with regard to training and organizing units from the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then gave a speech in which he expressed his satisfaction at the cooperation between the Guards Crops and the ground [as heard] forces in the war. He said: We have experienced good results from this cooperation and we foresee a better future. The combination of the two forces of faith and weapons on the battlefronts plays a very important role. It is hoped that the Nuh naval base, formed with the cooperation of the Guards Corps and the Navy, will prove effective as a result of correct leadership and wise collaboration.

Referring to the fact that the officials in charge of political-ideological bureaus are teachers of morals and religion, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly said: The desire of Islam, the imam, and officials is that the relationship between the officials in charge of political-ideological bureaus with the forces will be based upon morality and religious training.

The Islamic Consultative Assembly speaker then stressed the Navy's important responsibility in safeguarding the security of the Persian Gulf and waterways. Addressing those present, he said: During the past 2 years, you have proved that the imagination of certain people and the allegations of our enemies that Iran might have a destructive attitude and that it might disturb the security of the waters of the Persian Gulf and drag the world toward a crisis to be incorrect. We know that if the Persian Gulf is not secure our enemies will suffer as much as we do. Insecurity in the Persian Gulf poses a grave crisis for the world. We know that the lives of many great economic institutions of the world are dependent upon this region. If a 5-month [as heard] crisis and insecurity is created in this region, we could not guess what its economic consequences would be for the world.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The policy of the Islamic Republic in the first instance is to protect the security of the Persian Gulf, both the Muslims of the region and the entire world are in need of this security.

If one day our enemies want to cause mischief and deprive us, then on that day something will take place which we do not want. So far, for the sake of security in the Persian Gulf, we have not made use of our advanced equipment and our special capabilities. However, unfortunately, some of the very big Western powers who depend upon this region are, with their own hands, preparing the means for such an explosion.

For instance, the French have put some advanced war materiel at the disposal of the Iraqis and also interfere in our affairs. It imagines that by creating insecurity for some of our ships and ports, the issue will end there. They are making a great mistake. I hope the meaning of my words are clear to the world. It seems that France has adopted the worst policies from a rational and logical point of view. French policies have questioned the future of socialism in the world.

As a committed party which fought for many years against opposite tendencies, and under the shadow of the victories of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which delivered a heavy blow to the capitalist world, French Socialists managed to take a step forward and to gain power. However, in practice, they adopted policies that reveal a lack of ideology and of principles. In practice, they are supporting the fugitive generals of Iran who are far removed from socialism and from leftist ideologies. To plunder a few more dollars from the oil of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and such countries, France has come begging in the region; and to win the favors of the rulers of the countries in the Persian Gulf, they have subjugated their own policies to these rulers' inclinations. In fact, the French Socialist Party is acting as a tool in the hands of the capitalists; the future will pass judgment on this issue.

The Islamic Consultative Assembly speaker emphasized: We are taking good care of ourselves in the region. We should be prepared so that those who act foolishly and who, as a result of their inclination may deprive us of our security in the region, will know that we too will deprive them of their security and show them whose eyes will be blinded by the smoke of their evil deeds.

At the end of his speech when addressing officials of the Nuh naval base and Navy commanders, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: As with your wise moves you have safeguarded the security of the waters of the Persian Gulf, you should continue your work and you should achieve greater preparedness at this stage.

EMAMI-KASHANI ON FRENCH SUPPORT FOR U.S., IRAQ

LD141436 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Despite today's bitterly cold weather, millions of our Muslim countrymen rose to their feet and, in closed ranks, observed the auspicious Friday prayers ceremonies, thereby manifesting the majesty and grandeur of this unifying, sacrosanct rite of Islam. Tehran's hezbollahi, ever present on-the-scene citizens, in step with other God-seeking compatriots, congregating in Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares, held a most auspicious Friday prayers ceremony under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam va al-Moslemin Emami-Kashani, where they emphasized their unstinting support for the brave combatants at the battlefronts of good against evil.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami-Kashani devoted this week's first Friday prayers sermon in Tehran to expounding and analyzing two items in the important 8-point decree of the leader of the Islamic Revolution concerning morals and culture.

Referring to the baneful propaganda disseminated by the mouthpieces of colonialism about the decree of the imam of the Islamic nation, he said: Under our Islamic Revolution, we do not toy with people as is done by world politicians. This is because the Islamic Republic and its leader are truthful and do not remain silent whenever they encounter transgressions. Referring to the propaganda carried out by the imperialist-Zionist propaganda machines with regard to the dissatisfaction of the people, he said: A week before the issuance of the decree, our people placed over 18 million votes into the ballot boxes.

In his second sermon, when referring to political propaganda moves by the Iraqi Zionist regime during the past few days, and the steps taken by regional reaction and Western governments in support of that criminal regime, he said: These moves once again demonstrate the Iraqi regime's indebtedness to the United States. Continuing his second sermon, Tehran's interim Friday imam referred to France's role toward realizing U.S. goals of confronting the Islamic Revolution: [Begin recording] France has now become a passion play organizer. The United States is carrying out provocations while not wanting to lose its good name. Therefore, it has pushed this madman Mitterrand along its course, and he is now running to this or that country. Little does he know that the people understand what the USA is doing. They know that the United States is the archsatan, and so the people do not like him.

France also is giving out money, providing Mirage aircraft and weapons, is rendering assistance, is placing its mass media at the disposal of counterrevolution, yet it comes out with statements saying efforts should be made toward establishing a cease-fire. It recently asked the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to accept a cease-fire. If it is so tender hearted, why does it give all these weapons, all this money? Why does it tell all these lies? Why does Mitterrand run so much here and there? You wanted to destroy the Islamic Republic, but that was not to be. Well, the oppressors are one another's masters and guardians. So much for France. The same goes for Britain.

Now behold Saddam himself! This affair is very curious indeed. The man speaks out openly, the Iraqi regime states openly: Israel and Palestine must enter negotiations to bring calm to the region and Israel should obtain its right. Already two members of the Israeli parliament -- at first it was one, but recently I noticed mention in the news agencies of another one -- two members of the Israeli parliament have said: What the Iraqi regime is saying is something new; until now the Arabs have never spoken this way. They have never come to the scene saying that one should work for Israel's benefit! This is how Iraq is now speaking. Well, it is obvious why. Who else has served filthy Saddam as it has done? It never did this for Egypt or Jordan. Saddam has been waging a war for the past 27 months with help from Israel, the United States, France, and, if I may say so, from the reactionary regimes in the region.

The passage on time reveals all issues. It is now indeed clear that the Islamic Republic is not affiliated to any power and is relying on Islam and, armed with faith, is standing on its own feet. [end recording]

Tehran's interim Friday imam, continuing his second sermon, said: Other safeguarders of U.S. interests are the minigroups. This is a fact which the imam knew from the start, and it later became known to others. Today, with the release of a joint communique by the Iraqi deputy prime minister and Rajavi, this is becoming even clearer. The Iraqi ruling regime has sunk so low as to resort to a moribund and worthless terrorist, and this terrorist is such a dead loss that he is clutching at the disintegrating corpse of the Saddam regime. What is worse, France's Mitterrand regime is backing both.

Continuing his second sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami-Kashani said: The fear of the Islamic Revolution has now engulfed regional reaction and the superpowers, but despite the mobilization of these demons -- as God Almighty has graciously averred -- right is always victorious and we hope that the world of Islam will awaken and move toward the sovereignty of Islam. He said: It is the greatness of our combatants that frightens all. A salute to you, O combatants and the fathers and mothers who are dispatching your sons to the fronts!

Tehran's interim Friday imam then paid tribute to the memory of Navvab Safavi.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,186

LD171724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Communique No 1,186 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, exchanges of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the border fronts in the Ilam, Qasr-e Shirin, and Bakhtaran regions, with our forces maintaining superiority. Enemy positions, trenches, and military installations were shelled. During surprise and patrol operations on the fronts in these regions, our forces inflicted losses and casualties on the forces of Saddam. In the Marivan region, enemy positions and concentrations on the other side of the border were shelled by our forces' heavy weapons.

At about noon yesterday, Dehloran was subjected to enemy air attack and bombardment. A number of dwellings were destroyed; fortunately, there were no casualties.

In the southern operational zones of our country, the forces of Islam, while engaging in defensive activities, yesterday strengthened and consolidated their positions and continued to safeguard the area under their protection. During an exchange of fire in the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational zones, our forces opened fire on enemy positions and fortifications on the far side of the Arvand Rud. The exchange of fire was most intense in the (Shalamcheh) region.

Some residential parts of Abadan yesterday came under the heavy weapons fire of the mercenaries of Saddam. Losses and casualties were reported.

At 1215, 1321, and 1338 on 16 January, three enemy fighter aircraft were fired on by fighter aircraft of our Air Force and ground-to-air antiaircraft units of the Islamic Republic of Iran. All three enemy aircraft were downed inside Iraqi territory.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQI AIRCRAFT DOWNED DURING DELHORAN RAID

GF180613 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Three Iraqi fighter planes of the Zionist regime were downed by the fighter planes of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force in their territory. Many homes were destroyed in the felonious air raid of the Iraqi aggressors on the residential area of Delhoran.

MONTAZERI ADDRESSES AFGHAN THEOLOGIANS, SCHOLARS

LD171230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Excerpt] A group of struggling Afghan theologians and scholars accompanied by Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahdi Hashemi met and conferred with Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom yesterday. According to the Central News Unit, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahdi Hashemi briefed the ayatollah on the movement of the struggling Muslim people of Afghanistan and the role played by that country's clergy. Ayatollah Montazeri then made a speech praising their new movement and wishing success to the struggling clergy of Afghanistan.

Now that the struggling clergy of Afgahnistan is being organized, it should take note of the secret of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. The committed and struggling clergy played an essential role during the different stages of the revolution of the great Iranian nation led by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni.

Ayatollah Montazeri added: Our experience in Iran can be a valued model for the oppressed nation of Afghanistan. There were many groups and people in Iran who fought, but ended up being pulled into leftist or rightist currents, thus wasting all their efforts. If the committed clergy had not led the revolution in Iran and if it had not protected the revolution from diversions and inclinations to the right and left, the situation in Iran today would be very dubious. Iran would have ended up in the camp of either the East or the West.

Ayatollah Montazeri stressed the need for unity in the Muslim nation of Afghanistan: The struggling clergy of Afghanistan should stay away from local, racial and group differences, unite with the Sunni clergy brothers against the danger of blasphemy and infidelity, and guide and assist the Muslim nation of Afghanistan in its Islamic struggle to prevent it from falling in the lap of the Eastern or Western blocs. The Afghan clergy should try to be sincere in its methods. The Muslim and sincere Afghan youths are selflessly defending Islam, their country's independence, and their religious sanctities against the attacks of the enemies of Islam and blasphemy. The struggling clergy of Afghanistan is expected to assist and lead these struggling youths without any reservations.

NVOI CRITICIZES MEDIA REPORTING ON AFGHANISTAN

TA131942 [Editorial Report] The Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 13 January carries a commentary entitled: "One Cannot Reduce the Effect of True Statements by Heaping Abuse." It reads: The imam of the nation has always stressed that in disseminating news and reports the basis should be honesty, realism, and the goals of the revolution. Unfortunately, as the appointees of Qotbzadeh, the hojjatis, and liberal elements are not few in the mass media, including the Voice and Vision of our Islamic Republic, this principle referred to by the imam is still not being observed in all aspects.

In fact, not heeding this principle in certain cases has caused a lack of confidence by the people in connection with reports disseminated by our homeland's mass media. As an example, one can mention the reports and commentaries about Afghanistan aired by the Voice and Vision of our Islamic Republic. Everyone and probably even those who prepare these reports are aware that all this so-called reliable news is fabricated by imperialist news agencies or the Westernized organizations of Afghan counterrevolutionaries.

Is support for the lackeys and puppets of the United States such as Borhaneddin, Zaher Shah, Gilani, and similar dregs and reporting news fabricated by imperialist media and the elements of organizations formed by the CIA, Mosad, and others in the dignity of our Islamic Republic? Instead of heaping insults on the revolutionary forces that state the truth, by abuse and slander, one should see the facts as they are, for one cannot reduce the effect of true statements.

'KHOMEYNI MERCENARIES' KILLED NEAR SAR DASHT

GF171850 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] According to our correspondent, 12 of Khomeyni's mercenaries were killed in an attack by armed fighters against a guards base near Sar Dasht.

The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization has issued a statement in connection with the attack. It says: the crusading peshmarga, in a continuation of their attacks against the criminal Khomeyni mercenaries, launched a brave attack against the [name indistinct] base in Sar Dasht and managed to destroy it. The armed fighters entered the area on (?12 January) and attacked the important and large [name indistinct] base, using RPG-7's, grenades and machinegun fire. This base is one of the main bases of Khomeyni's guards and mercenaries in the area and has many heavy guns including artillery pieces, mortars, an antiaircraft unit, 50-mm guns and [words indistinct].

Approximately (?80) guards were in the base at the time of the attack. During the attack, 12 guards were killed and the rest were severely wounded. The fighters managed to return to their bases after the operation without losses.

MOJAHEDIN, BANI-SADR DIFFERENCES CITED

GF161048 (Clandestine) Seda-ye Iran in Persian 1930 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Different branches of the mojahedin organization are faced with a crisis following the meeting between Mas'ud Rajavi and Tariq 'Aziz, even though some offices of this organization deny this.

On the other hand, due to this meeting, differences have surfaced between supporters of Bani-Sadr and the mojahedin which has backed former president [words indistinct]. This has led to clashes in some cities.

Abolhasan Bani-Sadr has issued a communique stating his disapproval of the meeting between Tariq 'Aziz and Rajavi. Bani-Sadr said that he could not approve such a meeting unless Tariq 'Aziz had announced prior to the meeting that his country was a defeated aggressor. In another part of the communique, Bani-Sadr said that the sovereignty of the country has precedence over all other factors and then comes the question of the governing regime.

We remind you that recently on French television Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said: At the beginning of the war, the regime of Khomeyni was guilty and now the regime of Khomeyni is responsible for continuing the war.